



**DRAFT Minutes of the
Miracle Mile Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting - 20th meeting**

October 16, 2003, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Flowing Wells Irrigation District
3901 N. Fairview
Tucson, Arizona

E-II-5240.18.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Gary Abrams, David Crockett, George Hembree, Manuel Ramirez, Jan Randolph

CAB Members Absent: Netty Buras, Frances Feld, Pauline Massie

ADEQ Staff Present: Matt Doolen, Project Manager, SRO; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO

Members of the Public Present: Carol Clark (Ward 3), Ralph Darling

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Co-chair Gary Abrams conducted introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes for 7/10/03 CAB Meeting

Jan Randolph said that Netty Buras was listed as both absent and present in the draft minutes of July 10, 2003. Eileen Palese said she would correct the final version to reflect that Netty Buras was absent. Jan Randolph also asked for a change in the minutes where the text stated "she wanted a feeling of why members continue to participate on the board." She said she has always wanted to have a discussion on a shared vision, and that although the CAB discussed doing this when they first began to meet, the group has never gone back to the process of creating that vision. She asked that her statement in the last minutes be corrected to read "what brought each person to join the board." Eileen Palese said that a discussion on participation was on the agenda and can take place later in the meeting, unless the CAB wanted to move this item forward. The CAB agreed to hold the discussion later in the meeting and agreed to change the minutes to reflect Jan Randolph's comments, as noted above. Dave Crockett motioned to approve the July 10, 2003, minutes with these corrections made to the final version; George Hembree seconded the motion. The minutes were approved; all in favor, none opposed.

3.Site Investigation Update/Q&A - Groundwater Flow Model Demonstration

Matt Doolen said that the new fiscal year began in July 2003, which resulted in a new state contract being drawn up with site consultants. This change caused some delay in getting field work underway, however, the contract should be finalized by the middle of November. For this reason, sampling has not taken place since May. Also, due to budgetary constraints, ADEQ will only sample three times this year instead of four, but he said this schedule will still provide needed data.

Matt Doolen said the goal for this year is to finish the Remedial Investigation (RI) for the site, has been delayed because two additional regional wells needed to be installed. This was accomplished in April and May 2003. These wells were installed as downgradient wells, and the data from them will help to better define the downgradient extent of the plume. He said ADEQ now plans to complete all well installations before finalizing the investigation because this will make a difference when designing a system to clean up the plume; how much contamination is in the ground; what direction it is heading. He said the groundwater flow direction first needs to be studied to determine the best location for the remaining well. He pointed out the possible well locations on a map and said that the groundwater flow is believed to be north/northwest. He said they did perform some groundwater modeling two years ago to determine how large the capture zone was around the existing wells, but the plume was shaped differently at that time, and modeling can be quite expensive. He said this regional aquifer work, to finish up the Remedial Investigation, will include sampling and the installation of transducers to collect the water level data. He said ADEQ also wants to increase its understanding of the old airport site which was bought by Abrams Airborne Manufacturing, and look at other areas near that location. Similar work, (passive and active soil gas work, soil sampling, wells, if needed, soil borings), will take place in the next few months.

Matt Doolen said they are also looking at the former Spring Joint facility on Romero Road. He said ADEQ did perform passive soil gas testing at this site in recent years, and had previously done some investigative work ten years ago. He said the facility is no longer operational, but in the past, hydraulic cylinders were retooled and chrome-plated. He said chromium has been detected in the groundwater, in the regional aquifer, and the contaminant shows up in IRA-2 and IRA-9 wells. He said the current owner wants to sell the property and has hired an environmental consultant to conduct a Phase One Investigation. Some excavation has been done and a waste oil tank was removed. He said the consultant is communicating and sharing data with ADEQ. This data may have some significance to the WQARF site investigation.

Matt Doolen said, in cooperation with the property owner, he did go on the Spring Joint site and took photos. He said one building on the south side of the property had been torn down. ADEQ expressed concern about soil removal operations, wanting to ensure soil does not become airborne. ADEQ has prepared a public notice, scheduled to be delivered to the neighborhood residences and businesses because workers will be dressed up in protective gear and an explanation of the removal action was recommended. ADEQ has also asked that air quality monitoring take place during any work at the property. He said he does not know how long this work will take, but ADEQ will continue to communicate with the owners during the cleanup actions.

Carol Clark, Ward 3 representative, asked if the city environmental services department is involved in the Spring Joint remediation. Matt Doolen said the director, Karen Masburch, is on the WQARF Advisory Board, so she would be notified about the investigative work at the Miracle Mile WQARF site, but because this is out of the Tucson Water Service area, that department is not involved. Eileen Palese said the door hanger notice will be sent to the Ward 3 council office.

Jan Randolph asked how drilling can influence groundwater flow directions. Dave Crockett said that three Flowing Wells Irrigation District production wells are not operating in the area of concern; if all were operating, it would change the flow pattern. Matt Doolen said the most dominant way groundwater flows is influenced by groundwater pumping. Dave Crockett said that one of the alternatives to remove the contamination is to use those wells as extraction wells (pump and treat method), which might become a remediation option. Matt Doolen said that the Feasibility Study will look at several options, such as deliberately changing the flow to protect drinking water production wells.

The CAB decided to view the groundwater flow model demonstration after the meeting adjourns.

4. Call to the Public

No one wished to comment.

5. CAB Discussion on Participation/Membership

Eileen Palese reviewed the legislative mandate for community advisory board membership composition. She said that when the WQARF legislation was written, the length of time it would take for site cleanup was unknown, and since it will take several years for most sites, it is understandably difficult to maintain members.

Matt Doolen said that unless additional contamination is discovered, the field work at the Miracle Mile WQARF Site should be finished by April. Then the draft Remedial Investigation report will be finalized and made available for public comment. At that time, the CAB will be involved in the public meeting and review of that document. He explained the remedy selection process, explaining how the options are looked at to complete the final remediation. He said this process should go a lot faster than the investigation.

The CAB discussed membership issues and possible ways to interest the community in the site. Eileen Palese said that Frances Feld apparently does not plan to remain on the board since she has moved away from the area. Jan Randolph suggested the CAB hold a facilitated workshop on the groundwater contamination hosted by Flowing Wells Irrigation District. The CAB discussed this concept and whether sponsors could be sought to support a workshop. They also commented on the difficulty of getting people interested in the site issues.

Eileen Palese said an informational Open House could be held in conjunction with the upcoming public meeting to receive comments on the draft Remedial Investigation report. She said ADEQ appreciates the CAB's continued participation in the process.

6. Other Administrative Business

No other business was brought forward.

7. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next meeting of the Miracle Mile Community Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, March 25, at the Flowing Wells Irrigation District, 3901 N. Fairview, in Tucson. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, at (520) 628-6712, for more information

The CAB discussed agenda items. Matt Doolen suggested presenting a flow chart at the next meeting on the RI process to help the CAB visualize the next steps.

Jan Randolph said she still wants to hear what each member's vision is for the CAB. "What do you want to have happen out of this CAB?"

George Hembree said he wants to have clean drinking water. Dave Crockett said he believes everyone has the same vision, to get the contamination cleaned up.

Jan Randolph cited the Wickenburg site as a situation where the people did not want the chosen remedy. Gary Abrams said that it was still important for ADEQ to do the investigation and to come up with a plan that is feasible and attainable.

Jan Randolph asked the CAB members to express their views, saying she likes "I" statements; she wanted to hear people say, "I am here because....."

Gary Abrams said he is on the CAB because he has been fighting this for 18 years and has spent millions of dollars. He said he is here because he can't get ADEQ off his back, and because he does not like drinking water that affects people's families. He said he is on the board for many reasons.

Jan Randolph asked what he is fighting. Gary Abrams said all of us in this neighborhood that happen to be current, viable businesses, have been investigated. He said they are under threat of losing everything that they have worked for and they will continue to do that until the contamination is cleaned up.

Jan Randolph asked him to clarify. He said there is a battle between government and private enterprise. He said that in 1986, ADEQ named a lot of businesses in the neighborhood as potentially responsible and they were all put on a list which makes the business ineligible to borrow money, to sell property, to bid government contracts. He said that under the old WQARF program, ADEQ did not have to prove anything. He said he had to hire his own attorneys and consultants to test for TCE contamination on his property. All of this information was given to the state, but he is still on the list. He said now that chrome has shown up, he is back under investigation. He said the only way to get off the list is to make the problem go away.

Matt Doolen said that the list Gary Abrams is referring to is the Environmental Protection Agency National Priorities List, not a state list.

Gary Abrams said that he got on the list because an engineering firm that ADEQ hired said that they saw someone on his property with a 55 gallon drum and a hose. He said that could have had nothing to do with TCE or chrome. He said he has helped influenced state law on this problem by changing the WQARF legislation. He said he is now back in it again because the federal government has come back to test his property again. He described his current legal efforts to protect his business. He said that the general public has no idea about how these environmental laws affect business.

CAB members asked questions about past testing on the Abrams property and the procedure for being named a potentially responsible party. Gary Abrams again described how he was placed on the EPA list. He said there is no legal way to get off the (federal) list. He said he is now in his third round of investigations by ADEQ. He said that the combined money spent by the businesses for lawyers and consultants might have paid for cleanup of the contamination problem. He said that the process has been modified at the state level, but on the federal level, the system is still the same. He described other instances of being cited for violations that cost the company money to prove inaccurate. He said he is on the board for another reason, that he believes ADEQ now has some integrity. He wants the source of

contamination to be determined so that the businesses can all go back to making a living for themselves and for the employees.

Jan Randolph said this conversation was very engaging and very informative and it is important to hear everyone's perspective. Eileen Palese said that the reason community involvement was made part of the new WQARF rules was so that all parties could be brought to the table to discuss their viewpoints. Jan Randolph said this is the first time she has felt grounded with the board; she needs to know what the context is of the people sitting with her so she can consider their perspective and enlarge her understanding of this process. She said it is more than just the cleanup, but also raising consciousness levels about what is going on.

Jan Randolph asked the other CAB members to articulate why they are on the CAB. Manuel Ramirez said that he worked for 28 years in mining, and then worked 15 years in corrections. He is now retired and lives in the Flowing Wells area. He has a concern about the drinking water in the area. His vision would be to help the neighborhood and to learn more about the subject. He has been a neighborhood leader for 20 years. He said he thinks they have the best drinking water in Tucson and that the Flowing Wells Irrigation District water company does a good job.

Matt Doolen said that he has worked on the site for five years. He said a lot of activity occurred on the site before that time. He said he sees the site as a challenge and has tried to use his expertise to move the cleanup forward. He looks back on the five years and sees a lot of progress, although it may not appear that way to the CAB. He said the progress is due to cooperation among all parties involved, including the businesses.

Eileen Palese said that when community involvement was made part of the new WQARF, the idea was good, but the vision of how it would be implemented and how long it would take to cleanup a site was not fully known. Community involvement varies because each board and each site is different. She said her role is to facilitate the community involvement directive and to make it the group's board, not ADEQ's board.

8. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:10 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape(s), or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.

Minutes prepared by: Eileen Palese 3/8/04
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